



Internship Program

Washington D.C.



About Senator Wyden

Ron Wyden was first elected to Congress in 1980 to represent Oregon's 3rd District. In 1996, he was elected to the U.S. Senate in a special election, becoming the first U.S. Senator to be elected in a vote-by-mail election. He was sworn in on February 5, 1996, to the seat once held by his mentor, U.S. Senator Wayne Morse. Elected to his second full term in 2004, Senator Wyden received more votes – over 1.1 million – than any other candidate for office in Oregon's history.

Senator Wyden currently is the lead author of the first major bipartisan health care reform legislation in more than a decade, the Healthy Americans Act, which guarantees quality, affordable, portable health coverage for every single American. To date, the bill has garnered 13 cosponsors, eight Democrats and five Republicans in the 111th Congress.

Throughout his career, Wyden has championed accountability for elected officials. Wyden wrote the "Stand by Your Ad" law that requires candidates to be identified and take personal responsibility for any ad they run. And Senator Wyden has led the effort in the U.S. Senate to end the practice of "secret holds" whereby one Senator can anonymously block legislation from reaching the floor for a vote.

Wyden is also a strong advocate for Americans' privacy rights and has worked to conduct vigorous oversight of America's intelligence agencies from his seat on the Senate Intelligence Committee. In 2003, he successfully led the effort to shut down the Bush Administration's Total Information Awareness program, a data-mining activity that would have been the largest domestic spying operation on law-abiding American citizens in history. He also won the largest expansion of privacy rights for Americans in three decades by extending warrant protections to Americans when they travel overseas as part of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008.

In the U.S. Senate, Senator Wyden serves on the following committees: Judiciary, Finance, Intelligence, Aging, Budget and Energy and Natural Resources. On the Energy Committee, he chairs the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests. On the Finance Committee, Wyden chairs the Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs and Global Competitiveness.

Born in 1949 in Wichita, Kansas, Senator Wyden attended the University of California at Santa Barbara on a basketball scholarship. He later earned a B.A degree with distinction from Stanford University and received a J.D. degree from the University of Oregon School of Law in 1974.

Senator Wyden's home is in Portland. He is married to Nancy Wyden, whom he wed in September 2005. He and Nancy welcomed the arrival of twins, William Peter and Ava Rose, in the fall of 2007. Senator Wyden has two children, Adam and Lilly, from a previous marriage.

Internship Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the benefits of being a Senate intern?

An internship with the US Senate is an ideal way to experience Washington, DC and gain insight into life on Capitol Hill. Participants gain firsthand knowledge of the way in which a Senate office operates on a daily basis as well as the opportunity to observe the legislative process at the federal level, attend Senate committee hearings and briefings, and develop research skills related to public policy. A Senate internship is a great way to begin a career in public service.

2. Will I get to meet Senator Wyden?

Of course! The Senator is eager to meet all of the interns who serve in his office. In addition, interns will be able to join him at various events and hearings. Every class of interns has the opportunity to ask questions and get to know the Senator at a breakfast or lunch function.

3. What type of work will I do as an intern?

Interns are expected to provide both administrative and legislative support. While no two days are exactly alike, typical duties include sorting and processing constituent mail, answering phones, giving tours of the Capitol, delivering documents to the Senate floor and other Congressional offices, and assisting the staff with special projects involving research and writing. Interns are also encouraged to attend Senate committee hearings and pursue additional research regarding issues of particular interest to them. Interns may also have the opportunity to assist the Senator's press team with day to day activities.

4. What hours will I expected to work?

Interns are required to put in *at least* two eight hour days per week. Office hours are Monday through Friday 9am - 6pm, though interns may be asked to stay longer if assigned to a time-sensitive project.

5. What are the basic expectations of an intern in Senator Wyden's office?

Interns are expected to arrive to work on time and be prepared to participate in the Senate office. Interns are expected to proactively seek opportunities to assist full-time staffers with various tasks. A background in government and political science isn't necessary, but a desire to learn and contribute is a must.

6. Will I get college credit for my internship?

Most colleges and universities offer credit, but it depends on your college or university. Prospective interns should make the appropriate inquiries and arrangements with their academic advisors in advance.

7. How long does an internship last?

Depending on which session you apply for, your internship could last from 10 to 15 weeks.

8. What is the dress code?

Since interns will come into contact with senators and other dignitaries on a daily basis, they are required to dress in a manner that is respectful and appropriate for those types of situations.

9. What can I do to prepare for an internship in Senator Wyden's office?

In order to prepare yourself for an internship in Senator Wyden's office, it might be helpful to review the official website and familiarize yourself with some of the issues and legislation that the Senator is involved with.

10. When is the best time to come to Washington, DC for an internship?

Any time is a good time to intern in the Nation's Capitol. There is *always* something interesting going on, even when Congress is not in session.

11. Do I have to be an Oregonian?

No, but preference is given to Oregonians.

12. Are there application deadlines?

No, but the program positions are competitive.

13. Where can I stay while in Washington, DC?

A variety of temporary housing options are available, many geared towards students and young adults. While it is the responsibility of each individual intern to secure housing, we are happy to provide information and advice.

Please visit <http://wyden.senate.gov/constituents/internhousing.cfm> for more details.

14. How can I get around the District of Columbia?

The easiest and most convenient way to get around town is by riding *Metro*, Washington D.C.'s subway system. Sometimes, you may find it more convenient to take a cab, though it is more expensive. More information about *Metro* can be found at www.wmata.com.

15. Are there internship opportunities in Senator Wyden's Oregon offices?

Those interested in working in one of the six Oregon offices should contact Candi Bartasavich at (503) 326-7525. Applications for summer state office internships are accepted beginning in January and the recruitment process will begin in March, however internships are available year-round and generally match up with academic schedules. Please fax resumes to (503) 326-7528, attention: Candi Bartasavich.

16. Do you have a website?

Yes, please visit <http://wyden.senate.gov> to learn more about Senator Wyden and to get updates about the Wyden Internship Program.

Application Information

To apply, please complete the application cover sheet and submit it along with the following materials:

- Cover Letter stating why you would like to intern for Senator Wyden. Please include any policy areas that you are interested in as well.
- Resume
- Writing Sample (2 page max.)

You may submit these materials via **regular mail**:

Intern Coordinator
c/o Office of Senator Ron Wyden
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Or Fax: 202-228-2717, Attention: Intern Coordinator

**** In order to accommodate students with different academic schedules, we do not have set session dates. Ideally, applicants would be able to be in Washington, D.C. for a full term or semester during the school year. Internship positions are also available during the summer. While there is no set deadline, applicants are encouraged to submit these materials 3-6 months in advance.****

Internship Application Cover Sheet

Office of Senator Ron Wyden

Name: _____

Date: _____

Contact Information

Primary Phone: _____

Other Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address:

Other Information

Please indicate your availability:

Start Date: _____

End Date: _____

How did you hear about Senator Wyden's internship program?

___ Website

___ Career Fair

___ Friends/Family

Other (please specify): _____